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LETTER TO Editor

Dear Mr. Editor:

While spending a night in Hattiesburg, Miss. (Thurs., July 24th) I learned of a mighty important contest which was going to take place two days later on Saturday. This contest didn't take any space in the newspapers from the astronauts who had just arrived back to Earth safely, but to the nearby residents it was important, just the same. It was the annual National Tobacco Spitting contest, and the big news was that the man who had dominated the contest for a decade, but who lost the title last year, was to be on hand to try to recapture the crown. George Craft of Raleigh, Miss., is only 69 years old, but he has been chewing for 57 years, and he is giving special practice to the art this year. You might think a man who has been chewing and spitting for such a long time would know all there was to it, but he is still learning. Hoe George Craft excels in the fine art of tobacco spitting is not exactly known, not even to George himself. He says that some days he does better than on others, sorta like a baseball pitcher who has his on and off days. When George was asked how he approached the line to spit in competition, he said that he just took a long step and turned it loose. He did impart this much information for neophyte spitters: He said that the trick to it is the knack of pressing your parted index and middle finger to the lips and letting the liquid tobacco spray through the fingers. He said that the pressure on the lips helps to force the juice out and into a fairly even stream. This must be good advice because Craft dominated the contests for a decade until last summer when a young man, from Eupora, Miss., Don Snyder, beat him out with a stream which travelled 23 ft., 9 1/4 inches. This won the contest for him, but did not beat Craft's record of some ten years ago of 24 ft., 10 1/2 inches. The big question around Raleigh, Miss., and Billy John Crumpton's Pond, five miles away where the contest was to be held, was whether Craft would regain his title. Along with the tobacco spitting contest, there were skillet-throwing contest for the ladies, coon-on-a-long contests, mule races and political speaking. If they had thrown in a good old Brunswick stew dinner it might have passed for a setting in Virginia. Craft, who lives with his wife, Viola, his mate of 46 years, and a son, Earnest, said he has practiced his accuracy on chickens that roamed too close to the porch. That's one way to have a live and moving target. Appomattox has had a few good tobacco chewers, too, in the past, although I do not know if they ever had contests for distance and/or accuracy. I can remember two big Appomattox chewers, R. W. Burkey, who for many years owned and operated Burkey's Store, located on Church Street just across from Poe Hardware; and Dr. David A. Christian, Jr., who could have won just about any contest which involved the amount of time he could hold a chew and the amount of amber which he could hold. I remember one winter's night around eight o'clock, about 38 years ago, when I went with Dr. Christian on a house call out in the country, and the roads were really icy and full of ruts. When we got to the patient's house, Dr. Christian went in, forgetting to spit out his chew and the amber. The patient had been injured in a sawmill accident which left him with several broken ribs and much lacerated flesh which had turned black and which Dr. Christian was going to scissor away. I was holding a lamp in one hand a pan which held the necessary tools with the other when Dr. Christian, ready to commence with the job at hand, looked around the room as thought searching for something. The lady of the house asked him what it was he wanted but Dr. Christian couldn't answer. Finally his eyes lighted up when he saw a bowl and pitcher on a washstand. (They would be antiques, now). He stepped over to the pitcher and let go with a stream which would have made Dr. Twyman green with envy. Then Dr. Christian turned to the lady and grinned as he said that he just couldn't tell her what it was that he wanted. But, back to the contest last July 26th in Mississippi: I haven't learned who won the contest that day, but I wouldn't be surprised but that the old pro was sitting on the throne that night.

Billy Hubbard

Could it be you? Forest fires cause floods!

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The Pastor Speaks

"The Greatest Fool In Town"
11 Kings 20:1

". . . Thus saith the Lord, set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live."

There are few men who have ever received the "death sentence" without being upset, for death is never a welcome sight. Had not sin intervened, man would have been allowed to eat of the "tree of life" and would have maintained eternal, uninterrupted fellowship with God. It is no wonder therefore, that he now lives in fear from the ordeal of having his soul separated from his body. Christians, too, although they need not fear death itself, sometimes dread the approaching hour of "dying". King Hezekiah was a true Christian yet he was very disturbed when the prophet Amos told him that he would soon die. He says in Isiah 38:14 "Like a crane or swallow, so did I chatter, I did mourn as a dove". Hezekiah feared that final step even though he knew Glory lay beyond. How much more then should an unsaved man shutter? For after the brief pangs of his dying, there will be a whole eternity of terror and dispair. Only if our Spiritual house "is in order", only if we have obtained "the blood red ticket for eternal life" as a gift of Grace can we face the reality of death with calmness.

A great king once gave to his court jester a crude stick as a mock scepter and declared him to be "the king of fools". "If you ever meet a greater fool than yourself, you must give him your scepter and title". Years passed by and the jester kept the stick. As the king was dying, he called for his fool and said, "I am going on a long journey. I must bid you a last farewell." "But where are you going", said the jester to the king, "and when will you return?" "I am going," said the king, "into a far country and alas, I shall never return." "And pray what provisions have you made for that journey into that far country?" With a deep solomn look on his face the king replied "None whatever -none whatever" "Then," said the court clown, "you had better take the fool's scepter that you gave me many years ago, for with all my folly, I am not as great a fool as you."

THE CHOICE

Lesson for August 24, 1969

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Joshua 1; 3; 4:19-24 10:40-43; 14; 23 through 24.

Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 3:1-5.

Can the church survive? There are many who are asking that question today. Some have already decided that the church is lost. Others are not certain, but are fearfully wondering. Headlines like these add to the uncertainty:

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE DECLINE AGAIN!

SHORTAGE OF MINISTERS AND PRIESTS TERMED "CRITICAL"

DOWNTOWN CHURCHES CLOSE DOORS!

These are but a few of the storm warnings being flown before the church today. There are many more. You could probably compile your own list. Some people are already calling this the "post-Christian era" indicating that the Christian faith is on its way out.

Always Difficult

Yet, there has never been a time in the history of the church when there have not been discouraging reports of overwhelming obstacles. The march of Christianity has always been across difficult terrain and under the most trying circumstances. The key has never been in the obstacles that have confronted the church, but in the response of Christians to the

Friend, is your spiritual house in order? Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Are you prepared for the eternity that lies beyond the grave? Are you absolutely satisfied with your spiritual life? "Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people". Are you a prepared person?

"Oh, soul be thou ready,
No longer dispair,
There's mercy in Jesus,
Enough and to spare."

Earnie W. Lucas, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church
Appomattox, Virginia

will and power which God extends to us for the overcoming of the obstacles.

We remember the dismal report brought back from the land of Canaan by the spies Moses had sent. Only two men had disagreed with that report, Caleb and Joshua. The people spent forty additional years in the wilderness because of their lack of faith. Now, four decades later, Joshua stands before the people once more and speaks of the promised land. As he did so, he probably remembered that other day when his people's fathers had rejected his recommendation.

"Prepare Your Provisions"

This time, however, there were no protests about dangers and difficulties. He gave an order and they responded: "Prepare your provisions; for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan, to go to take possession of this land which the Lord your God gives you to possess" (Joshua 1:11). The situation had not changed in forty years: the Canaanites were still better equipped for war, still larger, stronger, more numerous than the Jews, still occupying their strongly-fortified cities. The difference was to be found in the hearts of Joshua's people: they trusted God's promise.

The final victory would not be achieved overnight; in fact, it was to take the rest of Joshua's life and many years beyond that. Many battles would still be fought, much land occupied, before the people of Israel would be full control.

Near the end of the book of Joshua we come to another scene. The great leader has summoned the people to say farewell and prepare them for the task still ahead. He was about to step down. At times such as these it is customary to make a testimonial to a man's leadership. Yet, it turned out to be a testimonial, not for Joshua, but for God. Joshua reminded them of all that God had done. He promised that the Lord would continue to fulfill his promises. Lastly, he warned them that God would be faithful only if they would remain faithful to God.

As for me, . . .
"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in faithfulness: put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and serve ye the Lord. And if you be willing to serve the Lord, choose whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

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Church Services

BERTY BAPTIST
mas D. Lee, Pastor
ton, Virginia
S—
School —9:45 a.m.
Worship —11:00 a.m.
Union —6:30 p.m.
ship —7:30 p.m.
Meeting—7:30 p.m.

rial Methodist
Ave & Court Street
ved Eastman
School —8:45 a.m.
Sept.—Rev Wheeler
—11:00 a.m.
ist Youth Fellowship —
—5:30 p.m.
mary Choir —7:30 p.m.

ne's Episcopal
Avenue
August 24th, 1969
Morning Prayer & Ser-
Lay Reader

VENTIST CHURCH
N. Bresee, Pastor
School Lesson 7 for
st, 1969
"Judge Not"
Verse:"Judge not that
not judged". Matt. 7:1.
Lesson: Phase 1. Judg-
mines, all question answer-
the Holy Scriptures to
full meaning please look
p. Q1. Condemned by
Matt. 7:1, 2. Q2. Con-
and reveals one's self.
3, Q3. Places us on the
Satan. Rev. 12:10, and un-
slabourers and spirit-
nbals out of us. Lev.
16, Col. 3:15, Phase 2.
ark of Judging. Q5. Be-
to God. Heb. 12:23. Q6.
gives righteously. Acts
31. 2 Tim. 4:8. Q7. God
our words. Matt. 12:36.
According to the law of
James 2:10-12, Eccl. 12:
Phase 3. Cures for Judg-
ers. Q8. Christ within the
Col. 3:1, Q10. True love,
8:12, 17-Q11. Keeping in
that we are Judgments-
Rom 14:10, 12, 13. Q12.
the beam in our own eyes.
3.
— "Judge not". Jesus
ders particularly to
another's motives, not
ging the right — or wrong
acts. God alone is com-
petent to judge men's mot-
because of the fact that He
is able to read men's in-
most thoughts. Looking thus
the hearts. God loves the
while He hates the sin.

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Rev. Arthur Wingfield

Revival services start Sunday night, August 24th, at Bethlehem Church, Concord, Va. Rev. Arthur Wingfield will be the guest speaker.

Services each evening will start at 7:45. Come and bring the whole family.

Revival Services Begin At Pleasant Grove Baptist

The annual homecomin service with "dinner on the grounds," will be held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Buckingham County, on August 24, 1969.

The schedule for the day is as follows: Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.; Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.; "Dinner on the grounds" - 12:00 Noon; Ordination of Deacons - 2:00 p.m. Rev. D. H. Gates is Pastor.

JORDAN BAPTIST

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Psalms 115:1

We would like to remind everyone that church meeting will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Baptizing will be held Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Regular preaching services will be held at 11:30 a.m.

The Junior Choir will sponsor a lawn party the 30th of this month. This will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lamberth.

There will be a Sunday School program given at the Jordan Baptist Church August, the 31st, fifth Sunday at 7:30 p.m., benefit of the Sunday School. Also the Jordanaires Spiritual Singers will render some selections.

Antique Auction

A sale of interest to antique collectors and others is the Auction sale of antiques set for Saturday, August 23 at 11 a.m. at the Country Club Restaurant, Route 460, Crewe, Va. George's Auction Service, of Appomattox is in charge, with Percy W. George as auctioneer.

Announce Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Steele announce the birth of a son, Robert Christopher, born Tuesday, August 12, at Lynchburg General Hospital. The Steele's also have a daughter, Stephanie, three years old. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Dickerson, Pamplin. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Grover E. Steele, Springfield, Virginia.

Mrs. Minerva Venable, Miss Jean Wesley.

The visiting ministers were Rev. H. O. Flood and Rev. James Franklin and the pastor of the church, Rev. Hendericks.

A large crowd attended services throughout the day. Afternoon offering for missionary $75.00. For the speaker $51.00. Offering for the day—$1,032.08. Remarks by the pastor, Rev. H. J. Henderick, Benediction, Rev. James Franklin.

On the same night Rev. Hasins preached at the Mt. Lyle Baptist Church. Music was rendered by choir members and Holiness Gospel Singers and others. Solo, Deacon Carlyle Robinson with Miss Jean Wesley at the piano. Sponsor program, Deacon Eddie Hancock. A nice crowd attended. The visiting minister was Rev. H. O. Flood. Total offering, $41. Remarks by Rev. Haskins. Benediction, Rev. H. O. Flood.

Lawn Party August 23rd

A Lawn Party will be given Saturday, August 23, at the home of Mrs. Ella Ferguson, Appomattox, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Ice cream and other refreshments will be served. The party is being sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Appomattox. The Rev. R. L. Jeffrey is pastor.

Rev. J. Coyte Riley

Bethany Holiness Revival To Be Held

Revival services will be held at Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church August 24-31. Service will begin at 7:30 each night.

J. Coyte Riley, new pastor, will be the speaker. The church is located 8 miles south of Appomattox on County Road 650.

Spout Spring HD Club Picnic

The Spout Spring Home Demonstration Club will meet with Mrs. L. E. Reynolds Thursday, August 28th at 6 p.m. for their annual picnic. Each family bring a picnic supper.

Revival Ends At Canaan

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25.

A week of revival ended Friday night, with four candidates for baptistism. The revival was enjoyed by all who attended. Rev. H. W. Pryor preached soul - stirring messages each night. The visiting choirs were as followed: Monday night, Mt. Airy Intermediate Choir rendered music; Tuesday, Canaan Senior Choir; Wednesday, Union Hill Senior Choir, Buckingham; Thursday, Mt. Airy Jr. Choir; Friday, Mt. Airy Senior Choir. The offering raised during revival was $1,412.63. The Canaan Church would like to thank each church and choir for helping them during their revival.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Mary Morgan who passed away Sunday in the Lynchburg General Hospital. The Canaan Church would like to express their deepest sympathy. May God give you courage at this time. When you feel sad and lonely say this, prayer. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; The courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Rev. R. A. Edwards is till the Liberty Nursing Home in Lynchburg. We ask you to join in prayer to wish him a speedy recovery.

Social Security Questions & Answers

Send your questions to Questions and Answers, Social Security Office, P.O.Box 2496, Lynchburg, Va. 24501.

Q. I think I may be eligible to receive benefits as a student. What are the basic requirements?

A. Assuming that you are the child of a retired, disabled, or deceased person who is insured under social security, benefits may be paid to you if you are: (1) 18 through 21 years of age; (2) a full-time student at an accredited school; (3) unmarried.

Q. My Mother is age 75. She applied for social security several years ago, but was denied. Her neighbor, who is about the same age, is receiving social security, and I know that neither she nor her husband ever worked under social security. Why can't my mother get social security too?

A. She may be able to qualify for a "special benefit" payable to persons age 72 and over who did not earn enough work credit to be insured under social security. This benefit may be payable if your mother is not receiving, or entitled to receive, a governmental pension or public assistance of more than $40 per month. She should check with her social security office for complete information.

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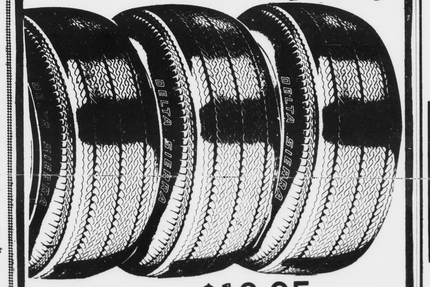
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